

System.

BY JOSEPH JOHNSTON.

Without system nothing can be successfully be carried forward; many have failed in the various avocations of life for lack of system. We may with a poor system and hard labor not utterly fail but will fall short of what we might have attained with a good system. The most successful in worldly affairs are those who have the best methods of carrying on their business, and I believe I am safe in the assertion that, spiritually, those who have a good system in spiritual work succeed best. For instance take the denominations who are organized. See how they increase; see the amount of good they are doing at home and in heathen lands. But what has the Dunkard Church done in one hundred and seventy seven years? She has increased from eight to about sixty thousand members nearly all of whom are in America. Many localities even in America, have never heard of a Dunkard preacher, and why? For lack of good system. Jesus said, "Go teach all nations." &c. He said what should be done, but left the church to say how to do it.

Now brethren and sisters, we who compose the Brethren Church, are in a reform movement. It devolves upon us as a church to see that we do all things according to the pattern given by the Master. And where he has left the church to say how to do let us try and adapt the the best method we can find. It makes no difference who has that system. We want a system so all can take part in the good work. The ministry can not do it alone. How shall they preach except they be sent? They should live of the gospel. They should be sent to preach by whom? The church undoubtedly, and she should see that her servants are provided for. We ought to have a system adopted that our ministers might know where to labor in His calling, and where the churches could seek to find a pastor. We need home and foreign missionaries and the church must have money to pay the expenses of carrying forward the glorious work. How shall we have these things? Can we, without a conference? If not let us have one. If any brother has a good plan by which we can have ways and means to go forward in progression without a conference, please let us hear from him. We have ministers that are able (intellectually) and willing but are too poor to war at their own expenses. How shall they preach and support their families? Echo, answers, How? I see Bro. Bauman offers his services to the cause. Such Brethren as him should be kept in the field winning souls for Christ.

Humbolt, Neb.

Smite Upon the Ground.

BY S. M. MINNICK.

When Elisha the prophet was on his death bed, the King of Israel came to see him and wept at his bed-side. The kingdom of Israel had been often overrun by the Syrians, by whose depredations the children of Israel had suffered many losses. Elisha had great love for his people, and hence a strong desire that Israel might dwell together in peace. He knew that Israel could have no peace until the power of Syria was overthrown and destroyed. He desired to fasten this truth upon the King's mind. Elisha said to the king, take the bow and arrows and shoot eastward. Elisha wanted the king to declare war on his enemies. Then Elisha said to the king, take arrows and smite upon the ground. The king took the arrows and smote thrice upon the ground. Elisha was wroth at the king because he only smote three times. "Thou shouldest have smitten five or six times; then hadst thou smitten Syria till thou hadst consumed it; whereas now thou shalt smite Syria but thrice."

There are many men today, in the world and in church, who smite sin so seldom and easily. Slows are harmless. Our self-interest leads to the sinner and his sins that smite the sinner or to show up his sin for money and wealth. Promises of gold and silver will get an office.

To get an office he must get votes. To get votes he must secure the friendship of the voter. The wicked man will vote more men than the saint. Self-interest causes the politician to smite where the sinner and his sins will not be hurt. The preacher has liquor-sellers and liquor-drinkers, whore-mongers, gamblers, liars, and thieves in his audience, but his congregation is small, and they give liberally to the church; self-interest will not let him smite their sins lest the church lose their support. The newspaper publisher sends his paper to all sorts of people. His subscription list is often small, so small that he feels that he cannot afford to lose a single subscriber. He fears to attack the sins of the people, knowing that if he does the smitten ones will say, "Stop my paper."

There are fearless politicians, fearless preachers, and fearless editors. Sam Jones the southern evangelist says, when he commenced preaching he was afraid he would hurt somebody but now he is afraid he won't. The fearless, independent preacher always has good audiences. Everybody is willing that our preachers and our paper shall smite the world and the "worldly churches," but they must not shoot arrows at the unrighteousness of our church.

Christ says, I came not to send peace but a sword. There can be no peace in the church until she is purged from self righteousness. Judgment as well as charity should commence at home, but it must not stay there. Smite the Syrians until they are utterly destroyed.

Andrews, Ind.

The Pullen and Peterson Debate.

A debate was held at the school house, at Williams, Oregon, Oct. 8th, between Elder Wm. Pullen, of the Brethren Church, and Elder Matthias Peterson, of the Christian Church.

Prop. 1. Trine immersion is essential to Christian Baptism. Elder Wm. Pullen affirms, and Elder Matthias Peterson denies.

The first point put forth by Elder Pullen was the plurality in the Deity, and read Mat. 3: 13. Then he gave sketches of history from John Wesley, Dr. Clark, A. Campbell, and showed that they claimed a plurality in the Deity. Second argument. Read Gal. 5: 25; and 1st John, 2: 24, and asked, "How do we get in to the three?" He answered, "By baptism, according to the commission."

Elder Peterson said in his first speech, that he and his opponent were together on Trinitarianism, and said there were three distinct individuals, and illustrated the mission, death, and suffering, of Christ and gave the 2nd commission, which he claimed, was his opponent's strongest argument. He claimed that Trine immersion went no farther back than the close of the 2nd century, and referred to Tertullian, that he said Trine immersion was doing more than was asked by the Bible.

Elder Pullen brought forth history to show that the Greek and Latin fathers understood Trine immersion to be taught in the Bible, then gave reference to Quinter and Mc Combs debate giving one baptism in three immersions.

Elder Peterson read history given by Tertullian on the 3rd chapter of Matthew. He gave the office of the Holy Spirit and said it was not given while Christ was here; but he promised he would send it. He then quoted Rom. 6: 4. Death, burial &c, of Christ.

Wm. Pullens closing remarks.—He gave sketches of history from Prof. Steward and others, and showed that Tertullian's translation was incorrect.

Prop. 2. The Bread and Wine commanded to be taken by the Disciples of Christ in remembrance of him are the Lord's Supper.

Elder Peterson claimed the sentence was incorrect, and that the verb should be singular instead of plural. He said the verb should be (is) instead of (are) and that the subject was supper instead of bread and wine, and refused to debate it on those and so the discussion ended.

N. PATE.

A thousand parties of pleasure do not leave a recollection worth that of one good action.

The truly grateful heart may be able to tell of gratitude, but it can feel, and love, and act.

No Respect of Persons.

"No respect of persons." This is the divine and almighty power which will convert and renew the world. No respect of persons is love for the souls of all people, without regard to race, or complexion, to nationality, to condition. This universal love is the opposite and the destroyer of all repulsive exclusiveness, of all caste-spirit, of all color-hatred, of all religious animosity, of all professional jealousy of all family discords, of all national wars, of all selfishness, of all self-indulgence, of all hardness of heart toward the wants and sufferings of our fellow-men. "No respect of persons" is nothing else than Christ Himself in our soul, the fire and the impulse of brotherly love, which, while it burns up in us all dislike and neglect of the needy, and consumes all obstacles between us and their salvation, conquers our self preference, conquers the opposition of others to us, conquers the world lying in wickedness, and brings all nation, communities, neighbor-hoods, churches, homes captive to the heavenly love Christ inspires and nourishes who is the only Lord of all.

Let this conquering power Christ's Gospel, the quenchless love of every human being, have "free course" (2 Thess 3: 1), and unlimited control in the heart of each one of you! Souls needing your love are asking you to love them. Ignorant souls are waiting for you to teach them the Gospel. Hungry souls are looking to you to feed them with "the bread of life." Perishing souls are crying out to you for salvation through Christ. Their asking, waiting, seeking, crying is God's own voice within them. The Spirit of God is in heathen hearts as well as in Christian souls. "When the comforter the Holy Ghost comes"—and He has come into all people—"He will convince the world of its sin and of Christ's righteousness." (John 16: 8-10.) God, Himself moves these souls to ask for you, to wait for you. Oh, Christian men, Christian women, come to us, send to us, lend us help, give us Christ. Without Christ we are dark. Without Christ we are helpless. Without Christ we are lost.

Because they are inspired by God to shout to you, these importuning souls, west, east, north, south all around you, have a divine and resistless right to be heard. Your deafness to their voice, your refusal to save, while it may be death to the perishing, is disobedience to God, who, while He may save them in spite of you, will not save you if you refuse to obey His command to you "Go disciple all nations."

In the great Day of Judgment you will meet and confront all these importunate souls. Will you now place them at the right hand of Christ? or will you leave them to this sentence, "Depart, ye cursed". Only now obey the voice of Christ now speaking to your heart, "Arise, go," and this will be Christ's welcome to you, "Come ye blessed of My Father. What ye did to one of the least of these My brethren ye did unto Me." (Matt. 25: 34-30.)

Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus; who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God; but made Himself of no reputation, and took upon Him the form of a servant, was made in the likeness of men, and being formed in fashion as a man. He humbled Himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. Wherefore God also hath high exalted Him, and given Him a name which is above every name; that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; and that all should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father." Phil. 2: 5-11.

Hard work hurts no one; it would not perhaps be saying to much to assert that who have lived what were called "busy" lives have kept the vital spark longest aglow.

Men and women to lead worthy lives, must have respect for themselves and just respect for others. Whatever tends to realize and to strengthen those promotes human welfare.

The man who revenges every wrong that is done has no time for anything. I you make your life a success you can afford to let the dogs bark as you go by.